

REMARKS

Claims 25-36 and 39-44 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-24, 37 and 38 are cancelled, and claims 25 and 31 are amended. The title and abstract have also been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on November 20, 2006. It is requested that the Examiner consider the references cited in that Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicant's representative.

Claims 1-24, 37 and 38 are drawn to a non-elected group of claims and have been cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application based on the non-elected claims.

Claims 25, 26, 28-32, 35, 36 and 39-44 continue to read on the elected species and claims 25 and 31 are generic to non-elected claims 27, 33 and 34. Rejoinder of claims 27, 33 and 34 is requested when claims 26 and 31 are found allowable.

The Abstract and title have been amended responsive to the objections. It is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

Claims 25, 26, 29, 31, 32, 35, 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,000,127 to Eifuku et al. (Eifuku); and claims 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 35, and 41-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,270,193 to Hiwada in view of Eifuku. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Eifuku and Hiwada fail to disclose or suggest the step of forming an actuator unit as recited in claims 25 and 31.

Eifuku discloses an electronic parts mounting method (Abstract). The Office Action asserts that Eifuku teaches many of the features of independent claims 25 and 31. However, Eifuku does not teach that the land is disposed on the piezoelectric element in a region opposed to the wall portion of the pressure chamber, as is positively recited in independent claims 25 and 31. Rather, Eifuku discloses a general electronic parts mounting method and is, therefore, silent regarding the claimed method, including electrically connecting to a land disposed on the piezoelectric element in a region opposed to the wall portion of the pressure chamber, as recited in independent claims 25 and 31.

The Office Action argues that because these features were previously recited in the preamble, patentable weight was not given. By this amendment, these features are now recited in the body of the claims and thus must be given patentable weight.

Hiwada also does not teach the land disposed on the piezoelectric element in a region opposed to the wall portion, as is recited in claims 25 and 31. Rather, Hiwada is silent regarding any type connection to the land located on the piezoelectric element in a region opposed to the wall portion because Hiwada merely relates to a driver circuit. As Hiwada does not overcome the deficiencies of Eifuku, the combination of references fails to render the claims obvious.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 30, 36, 39 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hiwada in view of Eifuku and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,095,641 to Kishi. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, none of the applied references disclose or suggest the additional combination of pressure chambers that are arranged as recited in claims 30 and 36 or the lands that are provided to correspond to the respective pressure chambers as recited in claims 30 and 36.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:SMS/wsc

Attachment:
Substitute Abstract

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